

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Idaho State Office  
1387 South Vinnell Way  
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November 24, 2003

EMS  
Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation (FA-100)

From: State Fire Management Officer, Idaho

Subject: NWCG Facilitative Instructor Equivalency Course

For various reasons, there is a demand for instructors to teach NWCG curricula at the 100-400 levels that have been and remains difficult to meet. The NWCG Course Coordinators' Guide PMS 907, requires 32 hours of instructor training for a "lead" instructor of 200 level NWCG courses and for all instructors at 300 level NWCG courses and above. The ***Facilitative Instructor (M-410) or equivalent*** course is identified in the PMS 907 as meeting this requirement. For lack of identified equivalents to M-410, M-410 becomes the preferred alternative for all agencies and is required by direction for USFS instructors through the 5109.17.

This memorandum serves as a formal request for National BLM Office of Fire and Aviation review and approval of the State of Idaho's Basic Instructional Skills (G-265) as an official equivalent to NWCG's Facilitative Instructor (M-410).

The ITOC Position Standards and Certification Sub-Committee\* performed analysis on the State of Idaho's Basic Instructional Skills (G-265) to compare the learning objectives and content of G-265 and NWCG's Facilitative Instructor (M-410) to determine if this meets the intent of equivalency in PMS 907. The recommendation is for the BLM to formally adopt Basic Instructional Skills (G-265) as an alternative to M-410. The Action Item Proposal documenting the analysis is attached to this memorandum.

*\*The Position Standards and Certification Sub-Committee is designated under the Idaho Training Oversight Committee, established under the Great Basin Fire and Aviation Training Committee (GBTC) to coordinate training and to strengthen the links with municipal and rural fire departments, and Idaho's Professional-Technical Education System (PTE).*

Signed  
William Clark

Authenticated  
Simi Torres  
Administrative Assistant

Attachment  
1-Action Item Proposal (3 pp)

# ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

## Facilitative Instructor (M410)/Basic Instructional Skills (G265) Equivalency

**To: Bill Clark - Bureau of Land Management**

Mike Dudley - United States Forest Service

Merrie Johnson - NWCG Training Working Team

Brian Shiplet - Idaho Department of Lands

## ISSUE

For various reasons, there is a demand for instructors to teach NWCG curricula at the 100-400 levels that has been and remains difficult to meet. The NWCG Course Coordinators' Guide PMS 907, requires 32 hours of instructor training for a "lead" instructor of 200 level NWCG courses and for all instructors at 300 level NWCG courses and above. The ***Facilitative Instructor (M-410) or equivalent*** course is identified in the PMS 907 as meeting this requirement. For lack of identified equivalents to M-410, M-410 becomes the preferred alternative for all agencies and is required by direction for USFS instructors through the 5109.17.

M-410 is designed to accommodate 18 students (20 in some cases). As training continues to be emphasized, this class limits the amount of instructors that can meet the requirements outlined in the PMS 907 and the USFS 5109.17. The Review Committee identified below has been tasked to compare M-410 with the State of Idaho's Basic Instructional Skills (G-265) to determine if this meets the intent of equivalency in PMS 907.

## DISCUSSION

One cause for concern with M-410 is that it is currently the one acceptable course for instructor qualification among the participating agencies of the NWCG. With the limited teaching cadres and small class size of M-410, this creates a tremendous backlog of students trying to take the course. For example, M-410 taught at the GBTU, scheduled three M-410 classes for the 2003 training season, for 60 total student slots. The GBTU received a total of 168 nominations for these 60 available slots.

The G-265 course provides an opportunity to reduce the number of individuals needing to meet the instructor training requirement outlined in the PMS 907 for all wildland fire instructors, and in the 5109.17 for USFS employees. The State of Idaho has G-265 qualified instructors with wildland fire qualifications who may meet the intent of the requirement in the PMS 907. Additionally, G-265 if accepted as an equivalent, may help to reduce the demand for this instructor training met solely by M-410 at the current time.

The review committee completed a full crosswalk between M-410 and G-265 and these are the results:

**M-410 Objectives**

Unit 1A pg. A.1

Unit 1B#1 pg. 1B.3

Unit 1B#2 pg. 1B.3

Unit 2 #1-2 pg. 2.3

Unit 3 #1-2 pg. 3.1

Unit 4 #1-2 pg. 4.1-4.4

Unit 5 #1 pg. 5.3-5.5

Unit 6 #1 pg. 6.1  
#2-3 pg. 6.1

Unit 7 #2 pg. 7.1

Unit 8 #1-2 pg. 8A.1

Unit 9 #1 pg. 9.1  
#2 pg. 9.1

Unit 10 #1-2 pg. 10.1

Unit 11 #1 pg. 11.1  
#2-4 pg. 11.1

#5 pg. 11.1

Unit 12 #1 pg. 12.1

Unit 13 #1-2 pg. 13.1

**G-265 Objectives**

Unit 1 pg. IG I-5

Unit 2 IG II-46  
Unit 3 IG III-22,32

Unit 3 pg. IG III-24

Unit 4 pg. IG IV-2

Unit 2 pg. IG II-(27-44,67-75)

Unit 2 pg. IG II-(16-20)

Unit 2 pg. IG II-70  
Unit 3 pg. IG III-(15-29),33  
Unit 3 pg. IG III-(55-64)  
Unit 3 pg. IG III-(35-54)  
Also, in G-265 pre work

Unit 2 pg. IG II-(27-31, 35-59)  
Unit 3 pg. IG III-(39-54)

Unit 3 pg. IG III-(65-93)

Unit 2 pg. IG II-(20-27)  
Unit 5 pg. IG V-25

Unit 3 pg. IG III-(22, 25-31, 57)

Unit 2 pg. IG II-(64-66)  
Unit 1 pg. IG vii  
Unit 2 pg. IG II-(21-36)  
Unit 3 pg. IG III-30  
Unit 2 pg. IG II-23

Unit 3 pg. IG III-30, 31  
G-265 pre work pg. 40-48

Unit 2 pg. IG II-(61-63, 67-72, 75)

\*Add NFES 2226 Course Coordinator's Guide (PMS 907) where appropriate when instructing G-265.

\*Add the NWCG portion of M-410, Unit 13, where appropriate to G-265.

There is a difference in length between the two courses. M-410 is 36 hours and G-265 is 28 hours. The review committee felt that course content in G-265 meets or exceeds that of M-410. Due to format of course, time length has no adverse outcome on the quality of training the student receives in G-265.

The impacts of identifying an equivalent course to M-410 were all positive. It will help to alleviate the backlog of students needing instructor training. At the same time provide wildland fire training system with qualified instructors from the structure/rural community with the ability to enhance overall perspective of wildland firefighters.

## **OPTIONS**

#1 Continue with the status quo and experience the large backlog of qualified students on waiting lists for M-410.

#2 Approve G-265 as an accepted equivalent for M-410 to enhance our ability to meet the agencies wildland fire training needs now and into the future.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The review committee feels that adoption of Option #2 will give us the best opportunity to utilize the resources available to us in the most conscientious manner.

## **REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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Great Basin Training Coordinator

Jerry Schroeder  
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Program Manager

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